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Maccabi TA makes Sweet 16

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Sassi and Shlomit's music

Time Out

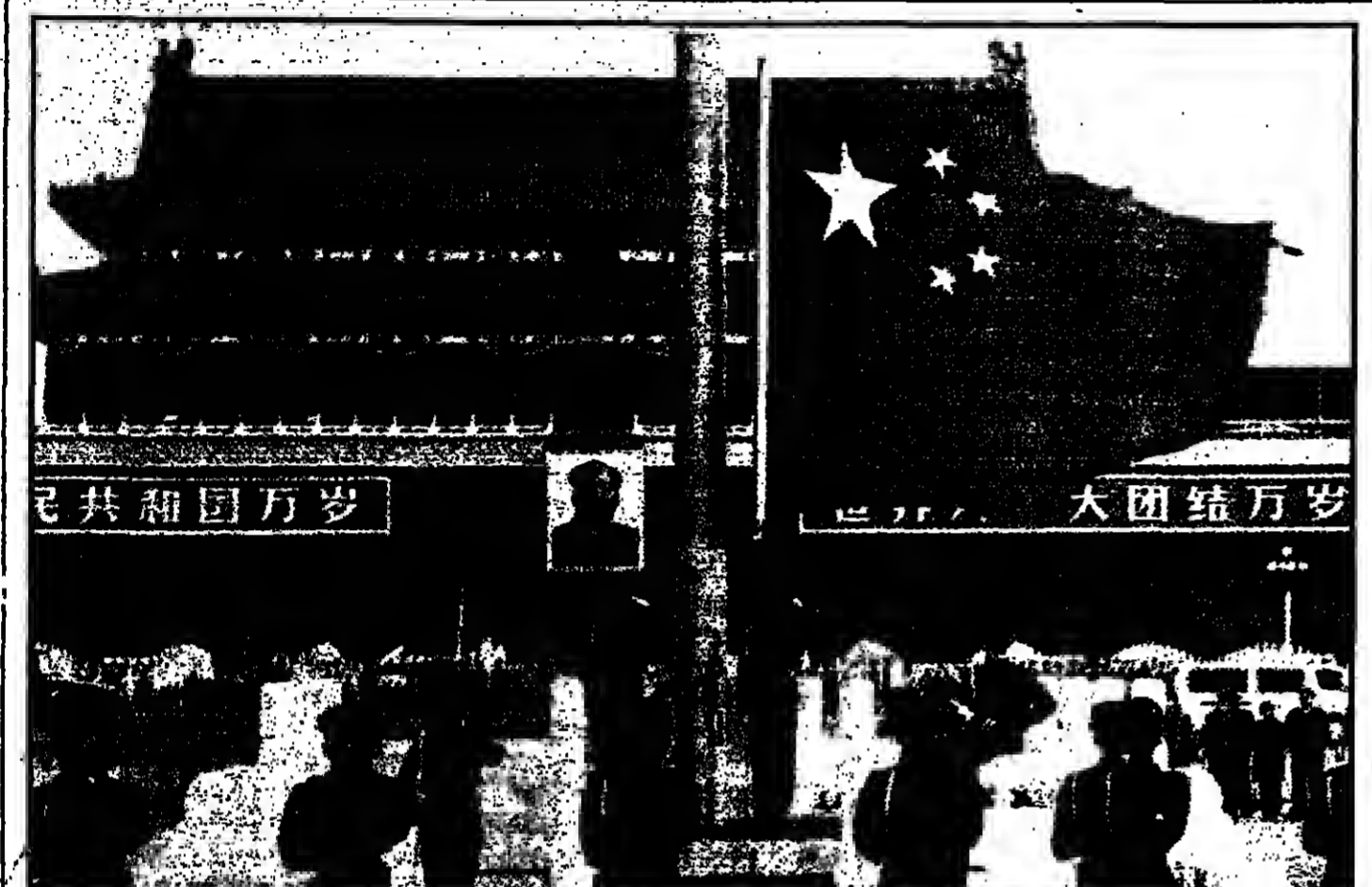


The women wonders of Ramle

The Magazine

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China in mourning
Soldiers of China's People's Liberation Army hoist the Chinese national flag to half-mast in Tiananmen Square early yesterday, as part of mourning observances for leader Deng Xiaoping, who died late Wednesday. Story, Page 6.

Indictment in Bar-On affair likely - report

By **MICHAL YUDELMAN** and **Jerusalem Post Staff**

Members of the team investigating the alleged Bar-On-for-Hebron affair and sources in the State Attorney's office believe that, based on evidence gathered until now, they will be able to recommend filing an indictment, Israel Radio reported last night.

The report said the charge is not related to any criminal activity specifically related to either the Bar-On-for-Hebron deal or claims that Bar-On supported a plea bargain for Shas MK Aryeh Deri.

Also last night, Channel 1 reported that police are investigating whether Deri pressured Ma'ariv to publish news of attorney Roni Bar-On's candidacy for attorney-general, so as not to sabotage the appointment.

The police have been probing suspicions that Deri extorted Bar-On's appointment as attorney-general from the cabinet, in the hope Bar-On could arrange a plea bargain or other benefits. The allegations are that Deri threatened that Shas would not support the Hebron agreement unless Bar-On was appointed.

During questioning by police Tuesday, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is believed to have denied that Deri struck any deal with him or anyone else regarding Bar-On's appointment.

Investigators met yesterday with State Attorney Edna Arbel and her aides to discuss Netanyahu's testimony and how to proceed further.

Efforts are focusing on whether or not several individuals already questioned by police were guilty of fraud or breach of trust, and perhaps blackmail. These include Deri, who police believe pressured various individuals, including some in the Prime Minister's Office, to have Bar-On appointed.

At this stage, police do not have evidence to support Channel 1's

claims that Bar-On promised Deri a plea bargain if appointed, or that Deri demanded Bar-On's appointment in exchange for Shas supporting the withdrawal from Hebron.

The investigation is expected to enter its final stages next week, with several new individuals to be called in for questioning. Director-General Avigdor Lieberman and Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi are also to be questioned again. The investigation is expected to last at least another two weeks.

Deri's attorney in his ongoing trial on bribery charges, Navot Tel-Tzur, asked to meet Arbel next week to discuss the implications of the resignation of Deri's top lawyer on the team, Dan Avi-Yitzhak, and the resulting difficulty in continuing the trial.

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani hinted yesterday that Avi-Yitzhak's resignation is significant to the investigation. "Read between the lines and the headlines, and add one and one," he said. "Certain people planned the move and they had partners. Who did what, and whether it went as far as the justice minister and prime minister, that will have to be investigated."

Hasson, who broke the Bar-On-for-Hebron story last month, reported yesterday that Deri acted from the start to appoint Bar-On, despite his statement that he only did so to keep Avi-Yitzhak, who was also a candidate, as his attorney.

Hasson said a week before news of Bar-On's candidacy appeared in Ma'ariv, the newspaper's reporter Ofir Hacham called Bar-On to ask whether he was the leading candidate. Bar-On denied the story.

Immediately afterwards, Deri telephoned Ma'ariv owner Ofer Nimrodi and urged him not to publish the story. How did Deri know of the report and why did he try to hide

it? asked Hasson.

A few days later, Deri called Nimrodi again, and when he understood the report was to be published, asked that the newspaper stress that Judge Zvi Tal was Shas's candidate. He also asked that if Bar-On's name was to be mentioned, the paper should write good things about him and say he is a leading criminal attorney and "high-powered." Ma'ariv checked this out and found out, in addition to more details about Bar-On, that Tal was not a candidate. The newspaper did not fulfill Deri's requests, Hasson said.

When the Bar-On-for-Hebron affair was exposed, Deri claimed he hardly knew Bar-On and the only contact he had with him was a meeting five or six years ago, and another meeting at a party after Bar-On had resigned, Hasson continued.

Why, then, she asked, did Deri exert pressure not to publicize the candidacy of a man he was not in contact with and why, after realizing he could not prevent publication, did he then want good things to be written about him?

Former attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair sharply attacked Deri yesterday, stating that a man facing bribery charges cannot serve as the head of a political movement.

"A democratic state, governed by the rule of law, cannot tolerate a situation in which a man facing bribery charges is the leader of a political movement, and as such is courted by all sides of the political spectrum. Can this be comprehended in a democratic regime? Can it be that a man like this should not shut himself up at home until the end of the trial?"

MK Ran Cohen (Meretz) asked Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein's opinion about suspending the people involved in the Bar-On affair.

Weizman to host queen in Diana's old home

These may not be many links between Princess Diana and the royal family these days, but next week President Ezer Weizman will be providing one. In the saga of the House of Windsor, Weizman will hold the reciprocal banquet traditionally given by visiting heads of state for their host, Queen Elizabeth II, in Spencer House, the former seat of her former daughter-in-law Diana's family.

The queen will host a banquet at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday in Weizman's honor, but since the

Foreign Minister David Levy appears to have beaten Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in a long stalemate on diplomatic appointments, yesterday naming three political cronies to positions in London, Pretoria, and New York.

Dror Zeigerman, a former Levy political appointee in Toronto, was named ambassador to Britain; Uri Oren, a former Levy political appointee in Los Angeles, was named ambassador to South Africa; and Kiryat Yam Mayor Shmuel Siso was named consul-general in New York, a position involving contacts with American Jewish organizations and the major media organizations based in the city.

Toto mania
Toto fever gripped the country yesterday, as the mounting jackpot passed NIS 21 million and appeared to be headed to a new record, and officials predicted income from contest hopefuls would reach NIS 50m. Meanwhile, picking this week's winning combination became even more tricky, as a promised storm threatened to cancel many soccer matches. (Tim)

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US Reform leader looks to CIS immigrants

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Immigrants from the former Soviet Union should be natural allies of the Reform and Conservative movements in the dispute over conversions here, but it hasn't happened and Rabbi Eric Yoffie, head of the Reform movement in the US, can't figure out why.

Yoffie, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC), who is here for the Jewish Agency Executive meeting has been meeting with MKs in an effort to avert passage of the proposed conversion law, which would bar official recognition for non-Orthodox conversions performed in Israel.

But he admitted chances of stopping passage of the bill are slim, and one reason is that the Yisrael Ba'aliya Party supports the legislation.

Yoffie said he realized the party is motivated by coalition considerations, but he cannot understand how it can remain apathetic to the plight of over 100,000 immigrants who are not recognized as Jews.

Many would gladly convert if the rabbinical courts would accept them, Yoffie said. "It's a great puzzle to us. The same bill that denies Reform and Conservative conversions also prolongs the situation where people who consider themselves

Jewish can't convert," Yoffie said.

In fact, a group of immigrants who have undergone Reform and Conservative conversion are due to demonstrate on Sunday, outside the office of Trade and Industry Minister Natan Sharansky, the head of Yisrael Ba'aliya, while the latter meets with American Jewish leaders, including the heads of the Conservative and Reform movements.

Yoffie said the Russian immigrants had been conditioned by the Soviet system to manage in unsavory situations, but he believes that this will soon change to anger and political activism, just as it had among the Ethiopian immigrants.

Sharansky's spokesman, Roman Polansky, said yesterday that the minister sees a great importance in deepening the connection with Diaspora Jewry and between Jews of differing religious backgrounds. However, Polansky also noted Sharansky has gone on record as opposing recognition of Reform and Conservative conversions performed here, while continuing to recognize those performed abroad.

Meanwhile, Yoffie said that some US Jews are diverting their UJA contributions to the Reform Movement. He himself, he said, had written letters at the request of several Jewish federations affirming the importance of giving to the general campaign.



Focus on the CIS
United Israel Appeal chairman Shoshana Cardin (right), speaks at a Jewish Agency Board of Governors subcommittee meeting yesterday on CIS countries, as Alla Levy, director of the Jewish Agency's Former Soviet Union Division, looks on.

Banks close early today

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

The banks will be open no more than half a day today, as bank workers strike in their struggle to shift from a six- to a five-day workweek.

The National Labor Court yesterday issued a temporary injunction allowing the country's 40,000 workers to strike every day of the week, as long as the strike is limited to no more than half the regular daily banking hours.

The court rejected the Banks Association and Consumer Council petition against the strike. The petition was filed following the decision by the workers committees and the Histadrut to call a complete strike at the banks every Friday. The majority of banks were closed last Friday.

Bank managements and workers' committees were instructed to engage in intense negotiations in an attempt to reach an agreement

on the move to a five-day workweek. The managements and committees are required to submit progress reports to the court next Thursday. The court instructed border-crossing branches to remain open today.

Most of the banks' works committees said they intend to strike all day despite the court injunction and the Histadrut's call to respect it. At press time it was unclear how many hours each bank will strike.

"Bank Discount workers will not work Fridays until management agrees to a transition to a five-day workweek," said Riki Bechar, head of Bank Discount's workers committee.

Bank spokesmen said automatic teller machines and bank telephone services will be operating all day. A First International Bank spokesperson said its telephone banking service, which is usually closed on Friday, will be operating.

Rabbinate official linked to conversion scandal takes leave

By HAIM SHAPIRO and Itim

A senior administrator at the Chief Rabbinate is going on leave for two weeks because her name has been linked to the alleged payment of bribes to speed up conversions.

In a letter to Chief Rabbinate Director-General Gedalia Schreiber, Yehudit Herstein said that she felt called upon to take leave, although she insisted

ed that she had committed no crime. She said she feared being used as a tool with which to attack the Chief Rabbinate.

Meanwhile the two rabbis suspected of taking bribes to speed up conversions, Michael Dushinsky and Binyamin Bar-Zohar, have had their remand extended until Monday, following a police appeal against an earlier decision to release them on bail.

Beit She'an Engines factory reopens Sunday

By DAVID FRUDGE

The Beit She'an Engines factory - closed for nearly three weeks due to insufficient orders - is to reopen on Sunday following an agreement between management and the Defense Ministry.

The accord means that the jobs of the 35 workers at the plant in the unemployment-stricken development town will be safeguarded for at least the next year.

The agreement was reached after a meeting yesterday between representatives of the Histadrut, the workers and management with Defense Ministry director-general Maj.-Gen. (res) Ilan Biran at the ministry's offices in Tel Aviv.

The plant, which overhauls IDF engines, was shut down nearly three weeks ago due to a shortage of work and dismissal notices were later sent to the workers.

Foreign Minister David Levy, himself a Beit She'an resident, intervened following demonstrations by the workers outside the factory and the Knesset in Jerusalem.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai pledged to increase the number of orders placed with the plant, which relies entirely on work from the IDF, to enable the factory to stay in business.

Management, however, said the proposed number of orders was insufficient to keep the business running and all the workers employed for a full year.

Beit She'an Histadrut branch chairman Pini Kabalo said it had been agreed in the talks yesterday that the ministry would further increase the number of orders placed with the company this year to enable it to continue operating.

"We are all very pleased, especially the workers. This is what we had been fighting for - their right to be able to earn their livelihoods and the right of the factory to continue," said Kabalo.

"It was made clear, however, that this agreement would apply to this year only and that management and the workers would, during the course of the year, have to begin to start to break into the civilian market," said Kabalo.

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China mourns Deng

News agencies

BEIJING — Ten thousand people will be invited to the funeral of Deng Xiaoping next Tuesday in China's Great Hall of the People, and his eyes will be donated for transplant and his organs for research.

Deng's family, in keeping with his wishes, requested that there be no solemn bowing before his corpse. His ashes will be scattered rather than saved, and foreign leaders will not attend his funeral, the high-level Communist Party committee overseeing the arrangements said yesterday.

Deng, one of the last leaders of the Communist revolution, died late Wednesday night of a lung infection and in the advanced stages of Parkinson's disease. He was 92. Increasingly frail, he was last seen in public three years ago.

World leaders yesterday paid tribute to patriarch Deng as the architect of modern China and praised him for freeing the socialist shackles that hobbled the country's vast population.

President Bill Clinton expressed his sadness and called Deng an "extraordinary figure on the world stage over the past two decades."

US Secretary of State Madeleine

Albright, visiting London, told reporters: "It would obviously be a great advantage to the Chinese as well as to all of us if there were a smooth transition (in Beijing)." Asian financial markets reacted positively with stocks in China, Hong Kong and Taiwan closing mostly higher as Deng's death was seen as removing recent uncertainties for investors.

But the impact on European markets was muted.

France heaped praise on Deng but drew a veil over his formative years spent laboring in grimy French factories, where the man who became China's leader learned to hate capitalist exploitation.

Deng left China in 1920 as part of a work-study program, arriving in the southern port of Marseille at the age of 16 and spent the next five years in France, working, while studying, in factories where he saw the seamy underside of capitalism. French President Jacques Chirac praised the dead Chinese leader as the main architect of China's modernization and recalled that France had "greeted Deng Xiaoping on its soil in the early 1920s."

The office of British Prime Minister John Major said Deng's "initiative played the crucial part in creating today's economical-

ly dynamic and successful China."

Germany described Deng as an important statesman who had decisively influenced China's development over 20 years.

"Deng Xiaoping counts as one of the great leadership personalities of China's recent history," Chancellor Helmut Kohl said in a statement.

Diplomats at NATO, which has no formal dealings with China, took the death calmly. There was no official comment from the alliance.

China opposes NATO's plans to expand eastwards, but far less stridently than Moscow. Diplomats said they expected no policy change.

Asian leaders mourned Deng's death and said his reforms transforming China into an economic powerhouse had earned him a place among the world's great statesmen.

From Pakistan to New Zealand, prime ministers and presidents heaped tribute upon Deng, saying he would long be remembered for dismantling the socialist chains that tied China's vast population for decades.

Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said he was filled with great sadness at Deng's death and hoped his passing would not affect crucial Japanese-

Sino relations, which he said were of growing importance for peace and stability of the world.

"I will continue to work with China's leaders for the long-term stability of our bilateral relationship," Hashimoto said in a statement.

South Korean President Kim Young-sam said he was saddened but hoped Seoul's friendly ties with Beijing would strengthen.

Communist North Korea's de facto leader Kim Jong-il praised Deng as an "intimate friend and comrade-in-arms" of the Korean people and said his death was a great loss to them.

Officials in the British colony of Hong Kong, which reverts to Chinese rule at midnight on June 30, paid their respects.

Colonial Governor Chris Patten was one of the first to be escorted inside the Xinhua news agency, Beijing's de facto mission in Hong Kong, to offer his condolences.

"He will be regarded by future generations as an historic figure," said Patten, the territory's last governor.

But reaction was not all praise. Tibet's government-in-exile accused Deng of decades of repression and said his death offered a chance to his successor to solve the region's long-standing problems.

On the first anniversary of the passing of
Hazan SHAYE PINSKY ז"ל
Family and friends will gather at his grave on Tuesday, February 25 (18 Adar I) at Har Hamenuhot (Gush kaf alef, Helka bet) at 3 p.m.
The Family

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our member
ARYE ZIV
The funeral will take place today, Friday, February 21 at 11 a.m. at Kfar Blum.
Members of Kfar Blum

We will be unveiling the tombstone for our beloved
NOMI LEV-YAHM
on Sunday, Feb. 23, 12:30 p.m., at Yarkon Cemetery
Husband: **Sonny Bar-on**
Son: **Chuck Felgold**
Daughters: **Vivian, Debbie, Wendy, Betsy, Jill and Meggie**

To the Rosenfeld Family and Sonia
Our sincerest condolences on the passing of our colleague
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May you know no further sorrow.
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and the Koffolk Company (1949), Ltd.

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May the Almighty comfort the family among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.
Alan Goldblatt Executive Director
Shimon Grifus Founder
Albert Reihmann Chairman

After much suffering bravely borne, our darling
DOV KULAWSKY ז"ל
passed away on Tuesday, February 18, 1997 (11 Adar I)
Deeply mourned by his wife, **Josephine** Daughters, **Sharon, Naomi and Ruth** Sons-in-law, brothers, grandchildren, family and friends

With deep sorrow, Emunah of America extends heartfelt condolences to the
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To Naomi Ragen and Family
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Nice place you've got here!
US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright (left) admires the residence of Alexy II (right), the patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church, in Moscow yesterday on her two-day visit to the Russian capital. (Reuters)

Liz Taylor brain operation begins

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Surgeons began operating on Elizabeth Taylor to remove a benign brain tumor yesterday.

"Surgery is under way and things are going as planned," Cedars-Sinai Medical Center spokesman Ron Wise said. The actress was wheeled into the operating room about an hour earlier for the anticipated four to five hours of surgery.

Miss Taylor, who turns 65 next week, was in good spirits, said her publicist, Maria Pignataro. She was expected to recover fully. The tumor was discovered during a routine checkup Feb. 3.

Her four children — Michael Wilding, Christopher Wilding, Liza Todd-Tivey and Maria Burton-Carson — as well as several of

her older grandchildren were waiting at the hospital. A fleet of television microwave and satellite trucks was lined up outside the hospital, their crews buddled inside to avoid strong winds hitting the area.

A neurosurgeon who successfully treated comedian George Burns was leading the team of doctors in removing the growth in the lining of the left parietal lobe. The area is over and behind the left ear.

Dr. Martin Cooper, clinical chief of neurosurgery at Cedars-Sinai, was using a computerized probe to give the team a three-dimensional view of the growth.

"He's going to be using a computer-generated neurological navigation system and micronavi-

gational techniques," Wise said.

"They will produce a three-dimensional image of the tumor. A probe will enable the surgeon to precisely locate the tumor."

Miss Taylor won Academy Awards for *Butterfield 8* in 1960 and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* in 1966.

The location of the tumor was initially described by Pignataro as being in the area of the left frontal lobe.

However, Wise said it is further back in the parietal lobe area.

The operation was earlier described as common by Dr. Gregory J. Rubino, an expert who said post-surgery hospitalization usually ranges from three to five days.

Diplomat surrenders 'Cosby's daughter' pleads not guilty

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Georgian diplomat involved in a Washington car crash that killed a 16-year-old girl surrendered to police yesterday to face involuntary manslaughter charges.

Georgia had waived diplomatic immunity privileges for the diplomat, Georgy Makharadze. The case raised new outcries against diplomats who accumulate traffic citations or violate other laws with impunity in the United States.

Makharadze, 35, was taken in handcuffs by city traffic police and charged with one count of

involuntary manslaughter five counts of aggravated assault. The manslaughter charge carries a maximum 30 year sentence upon conviction.

He was charged in the Jan. 3 crash that killed Jovian Waltrick, a Brazilian girl who had recently moved to a Washington suburb in Maryland.

Makharadze appeared with three attorneys at the police station shortly before 10 a.m. The attorneys left, without their client, several minutes later.

Although diplomatic immunity was waived, Georgian officials may ask that, if convicted, Makharadze be imprisoned in Georgia.

The maximum penalty for involuntary manslaughter is 30 years.

trying to extort millions from Cosby, one of the most famous entertainers in America, by threatening to go public with her claim that she is his illegitimate daughter.

Cosby denied that Ms. Jackson was his daughter but later said in a television interview that "there is a possibility" he is the father because he had an affair with her mother.

Ms. Jackson was freed on bail following her Jan. 18 arrest.

She and Medina had come to New York and signed a \$24 million agreement to stop her from telling her story to the tabloids, prosecutors said. Medina remains jailed.

The alleged extortion attempt came two days after Cosby's son was killed.

Since Ms. Jackson and Medina were first charged, Ms. Jackson's boyfriend, Antony Williams, has pleaded guilty to helping in the alleged plot by doing research on Cosby and his corporate sponsors and by taking the pair to the airport for their flight to New York.

Cosby has said he made payments to Ms. Jackson for educational purposes, as he had for other needy young people.

Copts slain after Israel visit

ASSIUT, Egypt (Reuters) — Police in southern Egypt may have found a motive for the massacre of 10 Christian youths by suspected Islamists after investigations showed that many of them had visited Israel, security sources said yesterday.

Six gunmen shocked Egypt last week when they stormed a church in Abu Qurqas town and sprayed bullets into a youth meeting. Police believe they belong to the militant al-Gama'a al-Islamiya (Islamic Group).

The father of Adel Mikhail Abdel Malak, one of the youths killed in the attack, told reporters yesterday his son had worked in Israel for five months as had some of the others shot dead inside the church.

Southern police officials confirmed that some of the youths had spent several months in Israel and said this fact had added "another dimension" to the incident.

Militants have often targeted policemen and sometimes Christians in their attempt to transform Egypt into a strict Islamic state but security sources said that this was the first time that gunmen attacked the interior of a church.



Handwritten text in Arabic script at the bottom center of the page.

Tug of war

The debate over construction in Har Homa hits at the heart of the issue of Jerusalem's sovereignty, Herb Keinon reports

To hear the opposing sides of the Har Homa issue, one could think that the very future of Jerusalem rests on whether or not this neighborhood will be built. Those advocating

construction argue that not building Har Homa would signify the redividing of Jerusalem. Those opposing the neighborhood say that building will ignite a conflagration that could lead to war.

"Not building in Jerusalem, not closing PLO offices in Jerusalem, not approving the plan to build between Ma'aleh Adumim and Jerusalem is, de facto, dividing Jerusalem," Likud-Gesher MK Michael Kleiner, unofficial head of the Land of Israel Front, said this week.

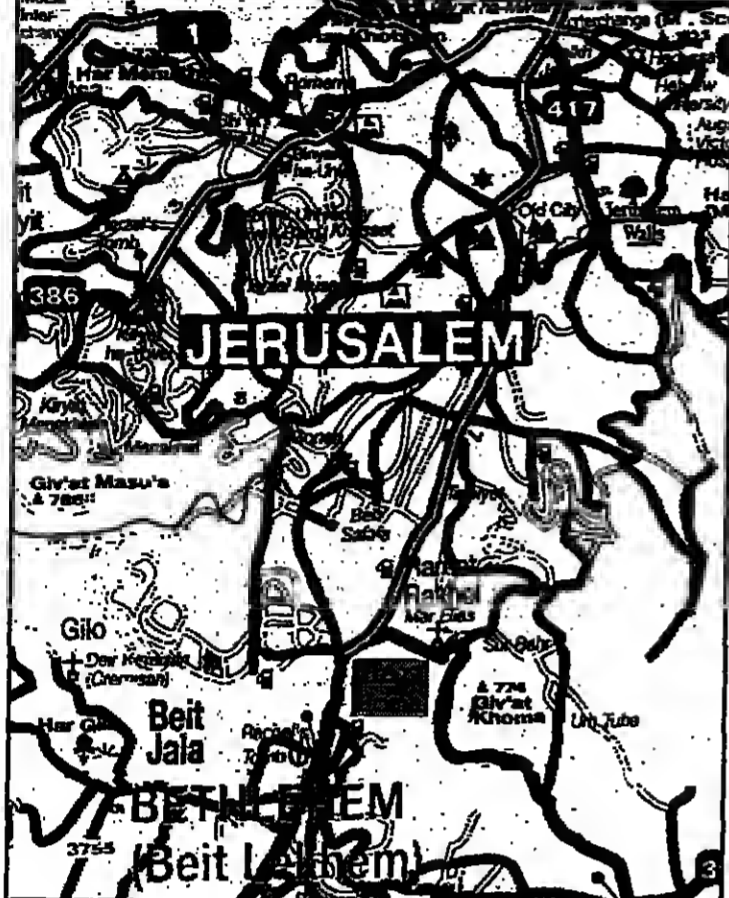
That's one way to look at it. "If Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu decides to build Har Homa, that is a declaration of war against the Palestinians," Faisal Husseini was quoted as saying. "If Netanyahu decides on the establishment of the neighborhood, it will prove that he does not want peace and is not willing to honor agreements - something that will lead to the collapse of the peace process."

That's the other way. What is at stake, at least on a superficial level, are some 6,300 housing units to be spread over 1,850 dunams of scenic real estate at the southeastern reaches of the capital. What is at stake, at a deeper level, is perhaps sovereignty over the city, and the establishment of all important territorial contiguity.

Har Homa sits, at least in part, on a wooded hill at the very southern edge of the city. It is visible to the east as one approaches the IDF roadblock to Bethlehem. It forms



A Palestinian landowner (left, holding map) argues with MKs (from right to left) Shaul Yahalom, Haim Dayan and Shmaryahu Ben Tsur during a tour of Har Homa.



On the drawing board

In addition to fighting the building of Har Homa, the Land of Israel Front has also placed two other issues at the top of its agenda: the building of a project to link Jerusalem to Ma'aleh Adumim in the northeast, and a series of roads linking the capital with the coastal plain.

The Ma'aleh Adumim Jerusalem project is, according to National Religious Party MK Hanan Porat, "more important than Har Homa."

This project, proposed for an area between the two cities called E-1, calls for the building of some 1,400 housing units and seven hotels with 3,000 hotel rooms.

By building this project, Israel will not only be creating a territorial link between the capital and the largest settlement in the territories, but will - perhaps even more importantly - prevent a territorial link between Bethlehem and Ramallah.

A territorial link is necessary for the establishment of a Palestinian state, Porat said. Anything preventing this will make it more difficult to create a Palestinian state.

The Ma'aleh Adumim municipality and the planning body in the Civil Administration have approved the master plan for this project, and it now must be

approved by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. According to the Land of Israel Front, Mordechai has not done anything about the project for seven months.

Ma'aleh Adumim Mayor Benny Kashriel said that the failure to move on the project signals to him that the government wants to keep open the option of a Palestinian state.

The other project the Front is concentrating on is the construction of road number 45, which will run from the Ben Shimon area to Pisgat Ze'ev, and then to Mishor Adumim.

Work on parts of this road has already begun, and at a meeting of the Ministerial Committee on Jerusalem on Tuesday, it was decided to "advance the paving of this road."

Besides easing congestion on the main Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway, this road is also designed to prevent territorial contiguity between a number of Palestinian villages in the Ramallah area.

In addition, it will also keep the Jerusalem neighborhoods of Neveh Ya'acov and Pisgat Ze'ev from being completely encircled - and, in a worst-case scenario, cut off - by Palestinian villages and neighborhoods. H.K.

Force 17 tests Netanyahu

One of the criticisms of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu heard most often on the right is that he cannot stand up to pressure - not pressure from David Levy, not pressure from Bill Clinton - not pressure from Yasser Arafat.

Can he withstand pressure from Michael Kleiner? The birth last week of an ad-hoc parliamentary lobby called Force 17, is an attempt to put the prime minister to the test.

"The message we are sending Netanyahu," said Likud-Gesher MK Kleiner, the unofficial head of this group, "is that if he builds in Jerusalem, we will be his security net. But if he doesn't build, we will not see any reason to support him." Kleiner prefers to call the group the Land of Israel Front, rather than Force 17, with its unfortunate name association to the elite PLO unit that guards Yasser Arafat.

Just as Yisrael Ba'aliya sees its role as looking after the interests of the new immigrants, and Shas sees itself as looking after the interests of the Sephardim, so the Land of Israel Front sees as its role looking after the interests of the Land of Israel, Kleiner said. "Our job is to preserve what we can [of Eretz Yisrael], and place political pressure on Netanyahu."

The name of the group, Force 17, refers to the 17 Knesset members who voted against the Hebron redeployment. Kleiner said that the number of MKs who agree with the group's position on Jerusalem is nearly twice that number.

"When Rabin went to Clinton, he could always say that there were things he just could not do because of opposition from the Likud. Up until now there was no similar opposition to Netanyahu," Kleiner said.

It was no coincidence that 13 MKs of Force 17 went on their tour of Har Homa and other points of contention this week guided by the leaders of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza. The council, which for months has been debating how best to pressure the prime minister to "return to himself," has been active behind the scenes trying to bring together the various MKs to form a real political threat to Netanyahu.

And, insists Kleiner, the group is not bluffing in its threats to vote against the government. "If we are not willing to go all the way, we won't get anything," he said.

Kleiner dismissed the notion of a national unity government as an "empty gun," saying that if such a government is created, the Likud will - in an attempt to underscore its differences with Labor - "once again become the Likud" and move Netanyahu right.

"The government is supposed to act according to its plank, and in line with its ideology," Kleiner said. "If it doesn't, it has no reason to exist. I have never supported a Meretz-led government, and will not be a part of a coalition that adopts Meretz's policies." H.K.

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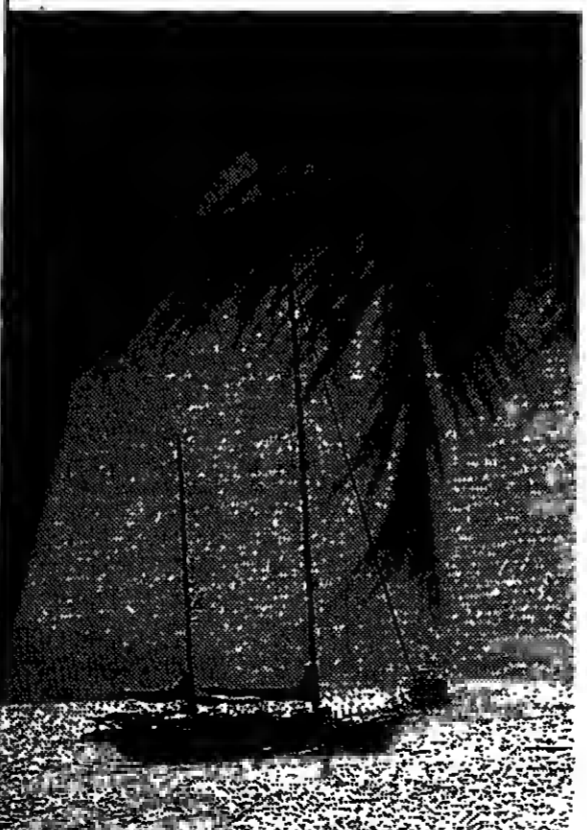
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Parents in distress

Before the findings of the Ivy Commission on the cause of this month's helicopter crash were made public, copies of its report were passed to the government — and to the families of the 73 soldiers.

Not surprisingly, last weekend the media was rife with parental reactions to the commission's findings. Some, like Idan Alper's father, were upset — he felt his son was the victim of disorganization; others, like the family of Moshe Musalem, were hopeful that the commission's report would prevent future tragedies.

Whatever their reactions, one thing was clear: the spotlight was on the families. This is just one of the many ways over the last two decades in which parents have become more involved in their children's military service.

Take hot lines, for example. In the aftermath of the helicopter crash "The Listening Ear," a national hot line open for all types of problems, received dozens of calls from distressed parents. Shmuel, one of the volunteers manning the phones (he won't give his last name because the organization maintains anonymity on both ends of the phone lines) says: "We listen to them, their worries and their fears. Sometimes these people have no one to talk to."

Raya Harnick tends to agree. Since her son was killed in Lebanon in the Eighties, she has found herself with her own personal open line for parents who were worried about their sons or who wanted to talk about sons who had fallen. She says that every new tragedy, like this month's helicopter crash, reopens old wounds: "These people call me because they have no official address. I do the minimum I can do," she says. "I think there should be a professional body to which I can refer them."

Perhaps the new hot line which sprang up after the helicopter crash will take some of the volume of those calls. In what they thought would be a one-time event after the crash, the Center for Parenting and Families in the Community for the State Teachers' College in coordination with the Education Ministry set up a hot line to listen to concerns of soldiers' parents. The hot line was so inundated with calls that they continued it a second and third

Today the IDF has to deal not just with soldiers serving in Lebanon, but with their families as well. Amy Klein reports

week and have now decided to make it a weekly event. Every Tuesday, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., parents of soldiers can call in and voice their worries and problems to professionals (03-690-2375/6778).

"We saw that there was a strong need for support for the parents of soldiers," says Haim Amit, who heads the Center for Parenting and Families in the Community. He said that most of the callers were mothers, and their calls can be divided into two categories: The first call as a result of fear. "People were calling with panic attacks. Knocking knees, heart palpitations, insomnia. They complain that they every phone call sends them into a panic because they think it's the call," Amit says that the counselor in these cases listens. "It's easy for people to talk to a stranger. They don't want to talk about it with their children because they don't want their children to worry."

The second type of calls, says Amit, are from parents who are worried about their children's problems. "One mother called me about her son who is afraid to step into a helicopter. Another one said that her son seems introverted and depressed. Should she talk to him?" In both cases, Amit says, the parents' first concern are their children — how to deal with these issues in a way that will put the least pressure on them.

A good proportion of the phone calls were from new immigrants. The hot line is staffed by Hebrew, Russian and Amharic speakers. "A lot of them have a great fear of the army, they don't want their kids to go into infantry," He tells of one caller who said she tore

up her son's draft orders; another caller said she was trying, behind her son's back, to get him out of the army. Other new immigrants, he says, simply don't know the answers to some practical issues like how to get their children a postponement while they study.

Ruthi Brenner, an immigrant from the US, doesn't know how she will survive her three sons' army service. Her eldest son is about to join the paratroopers.

"I've dreaded this moment for many years. Now I will have that constant dread, for that fateful knock on the door," she has taken out an ad for a weekly support group "for mothers whose sons are serving in dangerous places to share our thoughts and fears."

All this parental confusion should mean that the Center for Parenting and Families in the Community's new course, which is set to open in April for parents of soldiers, will probably be filled to the gills. The eight-part course (half lectures, half workshops), which was planned some time ago with the Education Ministry, will deal with issues facing parents with children in the army, such as what if a parent doesn't want their son to enter an infantry unit but the son wants to, or vice versa. The course will be free for parents whose children are serving in infantry units.

Amit says, "The parents in infantry are the most important part, but they are the most neglected."

An IDF spokeswoman says that "the IDF has no intention of starting a support system for parents. Civilians are taken care of by civilian mental-health services." Even so, the army does recognize the important role the parents play in the lives of the soldiers. "We aim to inform the public and to enlist the participation of the family to obtain their support."

"There is a trend of growing parental involvement in what is happening in the unit," says Dr. Efraim Inbar, director of the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University. "To some extent the IDF has encouraged it as part of the PR campaign — they opened up bases for visits, they encouraged soldiers to call home, they gave out telephone numbers of the commanders, and there are days when parents can have discussions with the army."



Helen Linden, already worried about the army service of her 12-year-old son, recalls the Beit Lid bombings; War widow Mira Hermoni is active in Women and Mothers for Peace. (Debbie Heller)



IT'S ALSO because the times have changed, says Dr. Ron Levy, former IDF chief psychologist. "Twenty years ago the army took an 18-year-old; everything that happened to him was to the individual. Today you can't take a soldier pretending he has no family."

Modern communication — telephones, mobile phones and television broadcasts which are more instantaneous and less strictly censored than they once were — puts the soldiers in close touch with their families.

But it's more than technological advance, says Dr. Oz Almog, a sociologist at the Jezreel Valley College: "Today the family is the central value of the 'yuppiehood'; worry is part of the deep connection."

He adds: "Don't forget that today's parents were in the army and they know the system, and they don't take this with closed eyes."

Levy says that there is a delicate balance that must be maintained with parental involvement. "Sometimes it gets to be intervention — parents try to pull strings. The IDF doesn't like it, and there's a conflict. As long as the parents know the boundaries."

"This type of [over-] involvement," says Inbar, "is counterproductive. Parents might start to question operations."

Questioning operations is exactly the goal of many mothers. Around the country, there is an uprising of mothers who are afraid for their sons. But instead of support groups and hot lines, they are taking their fears to where army policy is made: the government.

"Women and Mothers for Peace," is an organization with branches in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv; it has garnered thousands of signatures across the country.

"We are tired from the wars," says Mira Hermoni, an active member of the Jerusalem branch. Hermoni's husband

was killed in the Yom Kippur War. Her son finished the army two years ago and now serves in reserves.

"It's not only my son I am concerned about," she explains. Their agenda is to remind the government — whichever one is in power — to fight for peace. After the helicopter crash, they want Lebanon to remain open for debate. "We want to know that our sons' presence there is justified. The crash was a signal — not necessarily to pull out, but to stop and think about it."

Women and Mothers for Peace is not allied with other organizations because they have a unique legitimacy as women whose sons are serving — or will serve in the future.

Helen Linden is a mother of three. Though her oldest is not yet 12, she is already worried about his service. She has participated in meetings of Women and Mothers for Peace, as well as another group called "Religious Mothers for the Sanctity of Life." Both organizations were pro-active in pushing for the Hebron agreements.

She says that all of the women "want a feeling that the government is concerned with the way they use the soldiers." With a husband in reserves serving in places such as Lebanon, she thinks it's important for the subject to be open for discussion.

Linden, who wants to know that her children will be serving in the army for causes she believes in, insists that a public debate is not only necessary but beneficial to the soldiers serving in Lebanon.

"The soldiers serving in the army have a whole array of political views, like the left-wing soldier serving in the West Bank or the right-wing soldier in Hebron. They each bring their own political opinions, but they follow the orders and do it. I'm sure they want to feel that there's discussion on both sides of the political spectrum."

done quickly, without debate. "You are telling the enemy I am weak, I am not strong enough... and that's what they want... you should do it quietly."

Amit, in discussing why parents are more distressed today than they once were, gives credence to the argument that a public debate demoralizes the soldiers: "There was once a public consensus that the infantry was important. It allowed parrots to feel part of something important."

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Breaking the ice

Israel and the US will be better able to weather future storms following Netanyahu's meeting with Clinton, reports Hillel Kuttler from Washington

For Binyamin Netanyahu, last week must have been what he imagined a prime minister's visit to Washington should be. It's a wonder what a period of calm and the perception of progress can do.

The question now, of course, is how long Netanyahu's second honeymoon might last

Netanyahu, he added, puts the Israelis and Americans in a better position to weather their inevitable disagreements ahead. But maybe not too far ahead.

The Hebron deal, which cemented Netanyahu in the peace camp; the process leading up to the accord, which created a level of intimacy between the US and the new Israeli negotiators.



(Reuters)

Ezer takes tea with the Queen

On the eve of President Weizman's visit to London, Barry Rubin argues that Israeli-British relations are in a healthy state - for now

It's long overdue, but Israel's president is finally going to play the palace. Ezer Weizman's stay as a guest in Buckingham Palace next week is a good indication of the excellent state of Israeli-British relations today.

During his historic trip, which begins next Tuesday, Weizman will be feted by Queen Elizabeth, Prime Minister John Major, and other British leaders.

here. A big influence, of course, have been the dramatic changes in the Middle East political situation, making it clear even to the British establishment that better links to Israel need not entail worse relations with Arab states.

Traditionally British Jews largely supported Labor. Although the party felt a strong affinity for its Israeli counterpart, its virulently

From being responsible mainly for maintaining good British-Arab relations, the Foreign Ministry increasingly seeks to play a role as mediator in the Middle East.

As anyone who has seen the very accurate comedy series Yes, Minister knows, the civil service actually governs much of the time.

ber of probing questions. "Many of the things that were said, it was the first time they were said," the official commented of Netanyahu's overview, which included a lengthy meeting with Clinton one-on-one.

"It wasn't him coming in and saying 'This is the way it's gonna be.' This was a presentation that was reasonable," the official said. "The reason the president said he was encouraged was because of the cast of mind, the cast of feeling, the character of the exchange. It con-

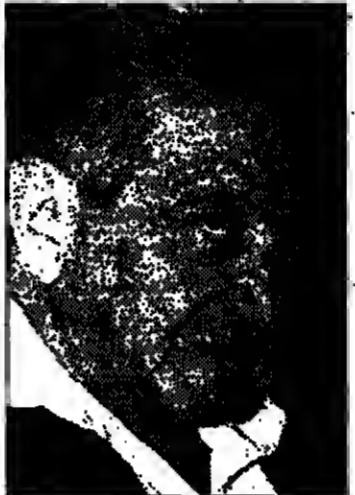
to muscle his way out of town without giving an inch. Now, he's out of the dog house."

The question now, of course, is how long Netanyahu's second honeymoon might last. On the Syrian track, the ball appears to be headed soon to Damascus's side of the court.

The Americans are now seeking to bridge the gaps between Jerusalem and Damascus but caution that no breakthrough on the procedural obstacle is imminent.

The State Department also said this week that it would prefer that Har Homa and the two roads around Jerusalem not move off the drawing boards quite yet so as not to complicate Israeli-Palestinian relations.

With Har Homa representing the latest, potentially explosive test, it just goes to illustrate that Netanyahu's problems "are basically in Israel, not in Washington," said former US ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis.



(Weizman photo: Isaac Harari/Queen Elizabeth: AP)

It is easy to take successful relations between the two countries for granted, given Britain's consistent support for US policy. But it is also possible to overlook them, given the continuing general hostility of British diplomatic and academic institutions and the media toward Israel.

anti-Israel period in the 1970s and 1980s made that orientation increasingly uncomfortable. But even before the breakthroughs in the peace process in the early 1990s, prime minister Margaret Thatcher played a key role for making a pro-Israel policy acceptable in mainstream British politics.

The Hebron agreement has, at least temporarily, quieted official criticism. But other, longer-term factors have also been at work

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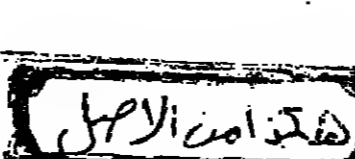
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TASE ROUNDUP

Shares rebound

Mishtanim 313.65 ▲ +7.95% Maof 313.67 ▼ -2.92%

Israeli shares recovered from early losses yesterday to close mixed thanks to aggressive buying by foreign investors, traders said.

MISHTANIM LEADING STOCK TASE ISSUES

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LONDON COMMODITIES

Table with columns: Cocoa, Sugar, Wheat, etc. and their prices.

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Foreign financial data courtesy of Commstock Trading Ltd.

LONDON

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PARIS

Table with columns: Accor, Air Liquide, etc. and their Paris market prices.

FRANKFURT

Table with columns: Allianz AG, BASF, etc. and their Frankfurt market prices.

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

German shares fall sharply

LONDON (Reuter) - European markets largely ignored the death of Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping yesterday, but Europe's major bourses all closed lower with German shares suffering the worst losses.

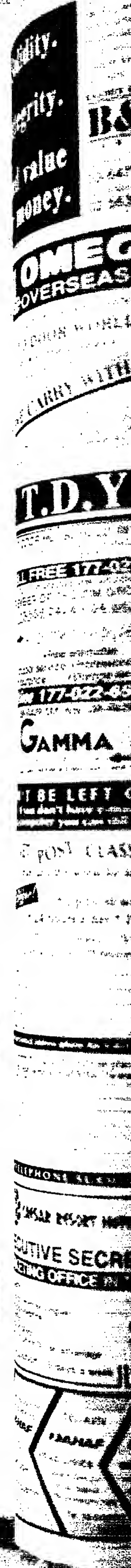
WALL STREET ROUNDUP

Dow plunges 92 points

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks ended lower yesterday after being pulled down by profit-taking, a weakening dollar and falling bond prices.

Neighborhood

Large table listing neighborhoods and their corresponding drop-off points for newspaper delivery.



Polish gov't OKs restitution of Jewish communal property

By BAT SHEVA TSUR and news agencies

Poland's parliament yesterday approved a bill on state relations with Jewish communities which will allow its nine tiny surviving communities to recover some property lost during and after the Holocaust.

will provide a legal framework for the surviving congregations, numbering 3,000 to 5,000 Jews, to reclaim some property. Pawel Wildstein, head of the Union of Jewish Communities in Poland, cautiously welcomed the bill but said it had flaws.

The government estimates that there are some 1,100 cemeteries, 350 synagogues, 28 funeral homes, 27 schools, as well as hospitals and other sites that once belonged to Jewish groups.

Wildstein ridiculed talk that the property Jewish bodies could potentially reclaim represented huge fortunes. "These are half-destroyed remnants of synagogue walls, these are 1,064 cemeteries, knocked down, wrecked, profaned. Even if we just tried to put walls up around these cemeteries... the money would not pay for one half," he said.

communities the possession of properties that belonged to them before 1939," said Naphali Lavie, vice-chairman of the Israel-based World Jewish Restitution Organization (WJRO).

ernment had, over the years, passed 32 laws and regulations regarding Jewish properties, all of which served to "legitimize" the holding of the properties, which had been handed over to them as "alien" assets after the war.

Tenenbaum suspended by Pentagon

News agencies

The Pentagon said yesterday it had put a tank engineer in Michigan on administrative leave and revoked his work permit, while the FBI investigates whether he divulged US military secrets to Israel over the past 10 years.

Army Lt. Col. Nancy Burt, a Defense Department spokesman, stressed that David Tenenbaum, a 39-year-old civilian, had not been arrested and that no charges had been filed in the case.

"He has been placed on paid administrative leave. His employee badge and his parking permit have been revoked pending the outcome of the investigation," she said.

The FBI disclosed on Wednesday that federal agents had seized computers, financial records, and other documents from the metropolitan Detroit home of Tenenbaum, a mechanical engineer for the US Army Tank, Automotive, and Armaments Command in Warren, Michigan.



Welcome home Immigrants arriving from the former Soviet Union earlier this week are greeted by Martin Kraar (right), executive vice president of the Council of Jewish Federations, which is conducting a week-long seminar in Jerusalem.

New branch of McDonald's targets Arabs

By DAVID RUDGE

McDonald's is due to open its first branch in the Israeli Arab sector today. The latest McDonald's, with signs in English, Hebrew and Arabic, is situated on the Haifa-Karmiel road opposite the entrance to Tamra, in the Galilee.

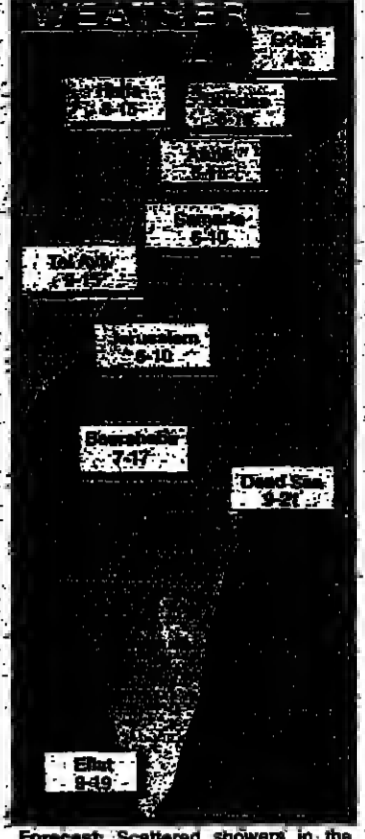
D'Amato implicated in campaign money scandal

By Jerusalem Post Staff

New York Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (Rep.), whose sagging popularity was rehabilitated by his probe of the Nazi gold scandal, is now in the midst of his own imbroglio.

Times also suggested that Senate investigators examine the relationship between D'Amato's fundraising and his role as chairman of the Senate Banking Committee.

to gubernatorial candidates. Lander was not available for comment yesterday. It was not known if Lander, who has strong ties to D'Amato and Pataki, was aware of the transfer.



Forecast: Scattered showers in the northern and central regions. Sheheet: Flaky.

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| Buenos Aires | 75 | E 20 | 48 | sk |
| Caracas | 88 | E 19 | 28 | sk |
| Cairo | 78 | E 28 | 28 | sk |
| Chicago | 67 | E 28 | 41 | sk |
| London | 57 | E 27 | 16 | sk |
| Madras | 81 | E 15 | 43 | sk |
| Moscow | 41 | E 16 | 23 | sk |
| Paris | 41 | E 16 | 16 | sk |
| Seoul | 41 | E 16 | 16 | sk |
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